

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MEXICO 05262 010959Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 ACDA-12 EB-08  
DOE-15 SOE-02 TRSE-00 /096 W  
-----074521 012119Z /75

R 312328Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9237

ALL USCONS MEXICO POUCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MEXICO 05262

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, ENRG, MX

SUBJECT: FOREIGN SECRETARY ROEL'S COMMENTS ON FOREIGN  
AGGRESSION AND PRESSURE

REF: STATE 079113

1. EFE REPORT CARRIED BY FBIS ON SECRETARY ROEL'S  
LENGTHY SPEECH ON MARCH 21 JUAREZ BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION  
WAS ACCURATE--BUT ONLY AS FAR AS IT WENT. EFE FOLLOWED  
SAME PROCEDURE AS LOCAL MEDIA, EMPHASIZING STATEMENTS  
THAT FOREIGN AGGRESSION AND PRESSURES, WHICH WERE WARLIKE  
IN JUAREZ' TIME, ARE TODAY ECONOMIC. THIS WAS WHAT PRESS  
FOUND NEWSWORTHY AND SUITABLE FOR BRIEF TREATMENT.

2. PLACING SPEECH IN PERSPECTIVE, IT WAS A LENGTHY IN-  
SPIRATIONAL ADDRESS LIKE THOSE ONE WOULD HAVE HEARD A  
GENERATION AGO IN THE US IN A LINCOLN DAY OR JEFFERSON  
DAY OR A PATRIOTIC SPEECH FOR JULY 4. WE MEAN NO CRITI-  
CISM BY THIS COMMENT. ROEL KNEW WHAT HIS AUDIENCE EX-  
PECTED OF HIM, HIS TEXT WAS IN KEEPING WITH THE TRADITION  
OF MEXICAN ORATORY FOR SUCH OCCASIONS, AND HE WAS TRYING  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MEXICO 05262 010959Z

BOTH TO INSTRUCT AND TO INSPIRE. FIRST THIRD OF SPEECH  
WAS DEVOTED TO A REVIEW OF THE WORLD SITUATION IN JUAREZ'  
TIME, AND IS AN IMPRESSIVE DISPLAY OF ROEL'S OWN ACADEMIC  
AND SCHOLARLY BACKGROUND, WITH MANY REFERENCES AND ALLU-  
SIONS TO UTOPIAN SOCIALISM, THE ENCYCLOPEDISTS, SOCIAL  
DARWINISM AS POPULARIZED BY HERBERT SPENSER, AND THE WAY  
IN WHICH WORLD CURRENTS OF LIBERAL THOUGHT INFLUENCED THE

MEXICAN WRITERS AND PHILOSOPHERS WHO IN TURN INFLUENCED JUAREZ AND HIS POLITICAL VIEWS.

3. NATURALLY ENOUGH, ROEL CHOSE NOT TO LET THE OCCASION PASS WITHOUT TYING TOGETHER THE PRINCIPLES THAT MOTIVATED JUAREZ AND MEXICO'S SITUATION AT THE PRESENT TIME. HE REVIEWED JUAREZ' STRUGGLE AGAINST COLONIALISM, MENTIONING BOTH THE "US EXPANSIONIST WAR OF 1846" AND IN EVEN STRONGER TERMS THE FRENCH INVASION OF 1861, WITH PASSING HISTORICAL REFERENCES TO THE INCIDENT AT VERACRUZ AND THE PERSHING EXPEDITION. AGAIN, NOT UNEXPECTEDLY, HE COMPARED THE RULING STYLES OF JUAREZ AND LOPEZ PORTILLO, MAKING THE POINT THAT JLP HAS INSISTED THAT WHENEVER MEXICO IS DIVIDED, MEXICANS SUFFER AND THE MEXICAN REPUBLIC IS THE LOSER. ROEL STATED: "IF JUAREZ DEFENDED VALIANTLY THE NATION'S SOIL, LOPEZ PORTILLO IS DEFENDING WITH HONOR ITS SOIL AND ITS SUB-SOIL"--AN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO MEXICAN PETROLEUM WEALTH. PROBABLY THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL STATEMENT IN THE SPEECH (AND THE ONE THAT EFE AND THE PRESS MOST EMPHASIZED) WAS HIS REMARK THAT THE COLONIAL AGGRESSION THAT MEXICO SUFFERED IN THE PAST CENTURY WAS FRANK AND WARLIKE, WHEREAS AT PRESENT THESE AGGRESSIONS ARE "VEILED AND ECONOMIC, ALTHOUGH LESS VIRULENT. THEY ARE ALSO DIRECT AND COMMERCIAL AND AT TIMES USE INDIRECT METHODS OF PRESSURE."

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MEXICO 05262 010959Z

4. EMBASSY DOES NOT SEE THIS AS A POLICY SPEECH, NOR AS ANTI-AMERICAN. HE WAS TALKING TO A MEXICAN AUDIENCE ON A PATRIOTIC OCCASION. (NO AMERICAN ORATOR, TALKING ON THE FOURTH OF JULY, WOULD USE PLATFORM TO EULOGIZE LORD NORTH OR TRY TO REHABILITATE THE MEMORY OF GOOD KING GEORGE III.) LIKEWISE, WE BELIEVE ROEL TOOK THE OCCASION TO "SPLIT THE EARS OF THE GROUNDINGS" WITH REMARKS THAT HE THOUGHT WOULD BE WELL RECEIVED, WOULD TELL THEM WHAT THEY EXPECTED TO HEAR, AND WOULD LEAVE THEM FEELING PROUD OF THEIR NATIONAL HERITAGE.

5. COPY OF ENGLISH TRANSLATION WILL BE POUCHED ARA/MEX ON APRIL 3. LUCEY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN



## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INTERVENTION, NATURAL RESOURCES, SPEECHES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978MEXICO05262  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780142-0861  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** MEXICO  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t1978034/aaaaacqv.tel  
**Line Count:** 107  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** c674c1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
**Reference:** 78 STATE 79113  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04 aug 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3245327  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FOREIGN SECRETARY ROEL'S COMMENTS ON FOREIGN AGGRESSION AND PRESSURE  
**TAGS:** PEPR, ENRG, MX, (ROEL GARCIA, SANTIAGO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/c674c1bf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014